

Co-Chairs Taylor, and Salinas, Vice-Chairs, Knopp, and Boshart-Davis, and members of the redistricting committees:

For the record, my name is Mitch Gould; my pronouns are he/him/his, and I live in Lincoln City. I am offering you recommendations concerning redistricting to the best of my ability, considering that I have had no briefing and very little access to information.

The Central Coast has many unique, major issues facing our future, such as: watersheds to preserve a dwindling water supply, the grim impacts of global warming, and tourism's requirement for a healthy environment. As one moves away from the coast, however, the areas of community interest change quickly. Tourism, fishing and scientific research aren't the same level of priority to all Oregonians. Moving inland, we find the health of our environment, the fishing industry, logging, tourism, and construction industry are too often in serious conflict. Environmental advocates say that communities of mutual interest also vary dramatically from the south to the north part of our senate district.

It's important that coastal communities remain in the same district to offer the best chance to elect a leader who will represent our values in the nation's Capitol. I believe Congress Plan A will allow us that opportunity. It appears to me to keep communities of interest together, take into account major transportation routes, and respect existing political and natural boundaries.

In regards to legislative maps, I support Legislative Plan C. This plan keeps all of Lincoln County together in one district. Given that central coast is more in alignment with the north coast, I would prefer the Plan C senate district over the other two options. Plan C which keeps all of Lincoln County in the same house district, and includes the north coast in our senate district.

Thank you so much for your work on this important issue, and thank you for reading my testimony. I hope you'll consider what I've shared with you about my concerns when you are finalizing our new maps.